

GOD'S OPPORTUNITY.

It Is Most Perfectly Realized During Man's Extremity.

Sermon by the "Highway and Byway" Preacher on One of the Profoundest Secrets of a Happy and Successful Christian Life.

(Copyright, 1902, by A. N. Kellogg Newspaper Co.)
Chicago, June 15, 1902.

Text.—My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness.—II. Cor. 12:9.

Paul's Experience.—Here in this twelfth chapter of second Corinthians we touch the extremes in Paul's life, and from the third Heaven in Paradise where his soul was in such transports of celestial joy that he knew not whether he was in the body or out of the body, and where he heard things which never mortal ear heard him speak—they were so sacred; from that glorious height to which God by special favor raised him, we find him a few verses farther on plunging down to the depths of human misery and weakness, as for a time the infirmity of the flesh, whatever it was, obscured the blessed face of his Lord and shut out all the joy from his Christian experience. This thorn in the flesh, this messenger of Satan, was the one plague-spot of his life, the fly of corruption in the ointment of his fragrant Christian life. Down on his knees in the dust goes Paul, and he beseeches God, not once nor twice, but thrice, that it might depart from him. Then, like the rift in the dark cloud through which the golden glories of the splendid sun come streaming, illuminating and transforming that which has been dark and forbidding into a glowing, glistening mountain peak of heavenly beauty—then, Paul finds in the marvelous love and wisdom of God his thorn in the flesh is to become all aglow with the glory and power of Christ; that, instead of being removed according to his agonized and repeated petition, it is to be transformed and become a subduing, softening influence on his life. It is to be no longer a thorn of sorrow, but a fragrant rose of gladness, and his heart breaks forth into song as he exclaims: "Most gladly, therefore, will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." His thorn has become God's golden-tipped goad to better service.

The Thorn in the Flesh.—Perhaps there has been no incident in the life of Paul over which there has been more speculation than this thorn in the flesh, and the curiosity to know just what that thorn was. As though exact knowledge in this respect would aid in better understanding the experience and learning its lesson. I am decidedly of the opinion that Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit left the nature of the thorn indefinite in order that the followers of Jesus Christ might realize that their infirmity, their thorn in the flesh, whatever it might be, could be treated in the same way as that of Paul, and become gloriously transformed even as was his. You see if Paul had been explicit, the brother with a similar thorn would be claiming a monopoly of this blessed experience, and "Me and Paul" would be his theme, and many a poor, discouraged brother with a different kind of a thorn would go sadly away bearing his unchanging thorn with him. A thorn is a thorn whether you find it on a rosebush or a thistle, and the same hand can turn the point of both from piercing the tender flesh. So the Lord can deal with all thorns in the flesh and transform them into ministering influences.

Paul's undoubtedly was a desperate case; his thorn of such a stubborn nature as to tax the utmost power of Christ to help him bear it. As Paul, under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was made to declare himself the chiefest of sinners in order that he might become the great example of the saving power of Jesus Christ, so in his thorn he gives encouragement to all similarly afflicted. If the Lord was able to transform his thorn, if His grace was sufficient to soothe the lacerations made by its lancet point, then there is hope for you and me, and we can "come with boldness to the throne of grace and obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

These thorns are present in every life to a greater or less degree. A thorn in the flesh is an irritating influence or circumstance in life, any bodily infirmity, any weakness, any hurtful lust or desire. These may be classified under two divisions: Thorns of a permanent character, such as physical deformity or weakness, and the temporary thorns of daily trials, difficulties, burdens, perplexities, misfortunes, persecutions, etc. Paul's thorn was undoubtedly of a permanent character, but his experience has its application no less to the temporary, petty thorns of the daily life. It is the little foxes that spoil the vines, and it is not so often the great thorn which wrecks the life and destroys its peace of mind and its usefulness, as it is the many little thorns. You may have in your life the permanent thorn. You know what it is. You most certainly have the little thorns piercing your weary feet day by day and pricking and irritating the busy hands. This experience of Paul is for you, and if you will learn his secret you too can rejoice with him because the power of Christ can rest upon you and make that thorn, big or little, a means of grace and the stepping-stone to more consecrated, efficient service.

Persistent Prayer.—With his thorn gnawing him to madness, Paul finds refuge in prayer, the Christian's sure haven in the time of darkness, doubt and difficulty. Three times he goes to the Lord and pleads his case. How many hours and days of agony and darkness are included in the three times that Paul sought the presence of the Lord, he does not say; certain it

is that Paul's was no hastily-uttered prayer, no rushing into the presence of the Lord and a rushing out again to some task of tent-making to make sure of his next meal and lodging. With his closet door shut and just one request on his lips he pours out his soul before his Lord in anguish of pleading. The one-request prayer into which are thrown all the intense desire of one's being are the prayers which reach the ear of God. "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." "Lord, that I might receive my sight." See the needy multitudes following Jesus, each with one petition on his lips for the supplying of some supreme need. The leper, the halt, the lame, the blind, the centurion for his servant, the ruler for his daughter, all come with one persistent cry which never failed to reach the Master's ear.

Paul goes over his whole case with the Lord, he opens up his heart to the Divine love and sympathy, he makes his request known. God hears but does not answer, and Paul leaves his closet with a heavy heart and darkness all about him. No light from God. No answer. Ah, Christian, is this your experience? Have you pleaded your one request before the Lord in your closet alone, and gone out again with no light and no joy? The fault is not that of your loving and wise Heavenly Father, but is due to your own condition of heart, which as yet is not ready for the blessing which God wants so much to give. "The heart is deceitful above all things," and "we ask, and receive not, because we ask amiss (without at first being conscious of it), that we may consume it upon our pleasures." Paul is in darkness, but he knows the trouble lies within himself and not with God. With David he can exclaim: "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance."

Again Paul seeks his closet and again he unburdens his heart before God. As he waits there before his Lord his heart is made ready for the blessing; it is cleansed from selfish motive and desire and his will is brought into harmony with that of his Lord. Perhaps he begins to realize the danger he was in of getting out of practical touch with the needy world through too constant dwelling in the third Heaven experiences. This is one danger which besets the deeply spiritual to-day. We need the mountain-top experiences; we may have them, but we must not build our temples there, one for Christ and one for the few favored disciples, but we must get down among the multitudes to seek and to save the lost. Christ went down from the mountain of transfiguration to the death on the cross. We must come down from our mountain-top experiences and give our lives for others, if we would find them again. As God taught Paul that lesson, so will He teach you, and you will come to realize that the thorn in the flesh is given, "lest you should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelation."

Paul went out from the presence of the Lord at that second seeking refreshed, yet humbled. The thorn is there to remain, and he is sorely buffeted. There is joyless submission on his part. He must endure for Jesus' sake. Ah, how often this is the condition of the Christian heart! Realization that the affliction, the infirmity must be borne, but a joylessness in it all which is discouraging and disheartening! With Paul we need to get back into our closets a third time and hear the sweet tones of our Master say: "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Then we can go out singing with Paul: "Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Strength Made Perfect.—There is a difference between strength made perfect and strength made manifest. The helpless and submissive babe in the mother's arms snuggles close and draws its nourishment and obtains its rest under her sheltering protection, and thus is her strength made perfect in the weak submission of the little babe. Out on the street midst the gathering crowd the blue-coated officer is struggling with the criminal who desperately seeks to obtain his freedom. The officer finally subdues his prisoner and hustles him off to the lock-up. Here is strength made manifest.

Here is the little acorn with the germ of the mighty oak within the sheltering walls of its tiny prison. Planted, the swelling, throbbing life pushes down and up, and the strength of nature is made perfect in the resultant growth. As the tree shakes its spreading branches in the warming sunshine and refreshing rain, and pushes its roots downward to the trickling stream below, nature's forces and strength continue to find their perfection in the submissive will of the tree. The darkening sky in the west betokens the gathering storm, and as the whirling clouds and rushing winds sweep violently by, lo! we find our great oak lying low before us and realize that the mighty, convulsive strength of nature has been made manifest.

Here is a human life through which God longs to pour His strength and power. As long as that life is submissive to the Divine will, the strength of God is made perfect in that life. The instant that life seeks its own will and way, contrary forces are set to work. It may prosper in the ways of the world. "Behold, these are the ungodly who prosper in the world; they increase in riches." And as we behold their prosperity, we are prone to say, with David: "Verily, I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence." This troubled David as it does you, "Until," as he goes on to say, "I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end." Noah submitted to the will of God

and obediently constructed the ark. For 100 years he became the object of ridicule of an unbelieving world and was looked upon as a weak and spiritless member of the human family, but the power of God was made perfect in his submissive weakness when the ark he had constructed bore him safely on the breast of the mighty flood while those who prided themselves in their own strength and wisdom were resting in watery graves. Abraham, by his blind obedience to the Divine command, established a nation and prepared the way for the coming of Christ. And in Christ we find the perfect exemplification of the mighty power of God being made perfect in weakness. When Peter drew his sword in protection of his Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane, when the Roman soldiers and officers of the temple came to arrest him, he turned to that zealous disciple and said: "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give me more than 12 legions of angels?" Yea, verily He might, but would not, for the strength of God was to be made perfect in His weakness. The seeming defeat on the cross, enabled Paul to write: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

Man's Extremity God's Opportunity.—And if "God's strength is made perfect in weakness," it must needs be that man's extremity becomes God's opportunity. God cannot do much with the soul that is trusting in its own strength and wisdom, and will not recognize a need outside of itself. But let a soul get to the end of itself as did Paul, and the grace of God is found sufficient and His strength is made manifest in the confessed weakness. Jesus couldn't do much for the young man who came to him seeking the way of eternal life because he was trusting in the riches he was not willing to give up; but across the lake of Galilee, in the country of the Gadarenes, He met the poor demon-possessed man, and in answer to his cry gave him deliverance. The thief on the cross who came to the end of himself and turned to Christ for help soon found himself in Paradise with his Lord. The other thief on the cross who stubbornly refused to recognize the Christ, but reviled Him, passed on into darkness and eternal death. In the one, man's extremity became God's opportunity. In the other, man's extremity worked for him his own destruction.

The helpless sinner at Jesus' feet is raised up a cleansed and saved soul. God has to get a man down before He can help him up. Man cannot step from his own sufficiency into the Kingdom of God. He must realize a desperate need. His cry must be, "Lord, save me or I perish." The Christian at Jesus' feet, discouraged and disheartened with his own effort to do and to overcome, finds he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him. Rev. F. B. Meyer, pastor of Christ church, London, says: "Do not sit down before that mistaken marriage, that uncongenial business, that physical weakness, as though thy life must be a failure; but take in large reinforcements of that Divine grace which is given to the weak and to those who have no might. It is clear that St. Paul had reached such a condition that it was a matter of deep congratulation for him to be deficient in much that men hold dear, and to have what most men dread. He rejoiced in all that diminished creature might and strengthened his hold on God."

Joy in Infirmities.—When Paul realized that God's strength was made perfect in his weakness a new source of joy was opened up to him. Ah, how that thorn in the flesh became dignified and glorified that day, when this blessed truth burst upon his spiritual vision. Paul emerges from the gloom of his physical infirmity into the glorious light of the presence of his Lord. The thorn is no longer there as a thorn, but has become the evidence of the presence of the grace and power of God. This is your privilege, too, and mine. The thorn in the flesh, the daily trial and disappointment, the misfortune and privation may all be transformed into blessings.

On the busy streets of the downtown district of Chicago, where strong men rush to and fro in the vigor of their manhood manipulating large enterprises and managing great establishments, there slowly moves an almost helpless cripple with his wares hung around his neck, from the sale of which he gains his livelihood. His limbs are twisted and helpless, his misshapen frame trembles with distressing palsy, his face is set and marked with lines of care and suffering, his eyes are fixed on the walk before him in order that he may be sure of his ground as he drags his shuffling feet along, while the crutches under his straining shoulders support him. What a picture of weakness and helplessness in the midst of throbbing, pulsating human strength and life. Surely the cripple is the picture of distress, and suffering, and human woe! Surely no joy there! Come with me, and you shall see. "Good morning, brother." (I have learned to call him brother, for we are blood relations, both cleansed in the blood of Jesus Christ and both made sons of God and heirs to the Kingdom, with Christ as our elder brother.) As my salutation reaches his ears he steadies his shaking frame and raising his eyes to mine greets me with a smile. The face is transformed in an instant with the peace and joy from within, which comes from the dwelling Christ, and he makes cheery reply. Not a word about his weary body and distressing lot, but: "I'm rejoicing in the Lord. He is good to me. Praise the Lord, He's coming soon." Yes, and when He comes He will find one soul at least waiting for Him, and rejoicing in present infirmities because God's grace is sufficient for him, and God's strength is made perfect in his weakness.

DISCOVERY OF NERVOCIDINE.

A Powerful Anesthetic That Is Made from a Plant Which Grows in India.

A new local anesthetic obtained from an Indian plant called "basu-basu" has recently been submitted to careful examination by some Hungarian dentists. The anesthetic action of this substance was discovered a year ago by a dentist in Flume—Dr. Dalma—who tried the effect of basu-basu in cases of painful pulpitis, and recommended it as a powerful agent which might replace arsenic in the treatment of that condition, says the Pittsburgh Gazette. Dr. Dalma also separated the active principles of the plant, which proved to be an alkaloid, and in his later experiments he used the salt obtained by treating the alkaloid with hydrochloric acid. This salt has been named "nervocidine." In weak solution (1-10 of 1-20 per cent.) nervocidine produced a marked local anesthesia of the cornea of warm-blooded animals. Two drops of a 1-20 per cent. solution applied to the human conjunctiva produced a burning sensation, accompanied by lachrymation, followed after 20 minutes by anesthesia of the cornea lasting for five hours. After seven hours the cornea regained its normal condition. A 1-10 per cent. solution of nervocidine brushed over the mucous membrane of the cheek caused local anesthesia of the brushed surface and of the tongue, accompanied by loss of the sensation of taste and the perception of heat and cold.

Attempts to produce local anesthesia by subcutaneous injections of nervocidine in animals have not yet been successful. The general action of nervocidine on the system was that of a poison, producing death by paralysis of the motor centers of the nerves. All the experiments proved that nervocidine was a powerful local anesthetic which had the advantage of producing a much more sustained action than cocaine, for the effect of a one-half or one-fifth per cent. solution might last for two or three days. It is, however, not without its drawbacks, such as the local irritation to which it gives rise, the slow production of the anesthetic state (from ten to 20 minutes being required) and a liability to the occurrence of nausea, vomiting, salivation and other symptoms of general poisoning.

PATENT LEATHER HAS RIVAL.

Shoes with Dull Finish Are Now in Vogue for Dress Occasions.

Dull finish shoes are to take the place of patent leather for fashionable wear. The change cannot be accounted for, and the news of it will cause regret. But the edict has been issued that henceforth any one who wishes to be stylish must have shoes and slippers of dull-finished kid. Sometimes the dull-finished kid shoes have perforated and fancifully ornamented tips.

The low shoe is this season cut higher than before, and sometimes it fastens over the instep with a strap which buckles at the side, or two buttons may be used to close up the opening. All shoes except those for heavy walking, and all boots for outdoor games, will be ornamented with a Louis Quinze heel. Plain heels are no longer fashionable.

Black satin shoes have also come into vogue. They may be plain, or they may be ornamented as elaborately as any one desires. There is one dainty little design of tiny sprays of flowers which will be worked in black silk and small black pearls. Nowhere do black pearls seem more suitable than on the dainty little black evening slippers. Sometimes the entire pointed toe is incrustated with black pearls. White satin shoes, with pure white gleaming pearls, are preferred by some.

Strawberry Shortbread.

This is commonly known as shortcake, but the true shortcake is made without sugar or egg. Make a rich baking powder biscuit dough. The butter should be very cold and hard and rubbed into the flour and the flour moistened with cream or part cream and part milk. Have the dough soft enough to pat out into a flat cake half an inch thick. Lay it in a buttered pan and bake in a rather quick oven for 25 or 30 minutes. While it is hot trim off the crust around the edges so the cake can be easily pulled apart in equal halves. Spread quickly with softened butter, on each half crush a pint of ripe strawberries, sweeten to taste and spread on the buttered halves. On the lower half of the cake arrange a layer of whole berries. Place the other half on top, with crust side down and decorate with whole berries and dust thickly with powdered sugar. Serve hot, with sugar and cream.—Washington Star.

White Sauce.—A white sauce that is excellent to serve with hot steamed puddings is made by dissolving in a half a cupful of cold water a tablespoonful of corn starch. When blended add a half a cupful of powdered sugar, a pinch of salt and a cupful of boiling water. Put on the fire in a double boiler and boil 15 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the whites of two eggs beaten stiff, a teaspoonful of vanilla and two tablespoonfuls of sherry. Remove from the fire and beat until cold.—N. Y. Post.

Beet Greens.—Wash young beets very clean, but do not separate the roots from the leaves; boil in salted boiling water for three-quarters of an hour; drain well in a colander; dress with butter and serve hot with vinegar.—Ladies' World, New York.

Another Step Forward.

The manager of our bureau has thought out a splendid scheme for the children's amusement. "Eh! What is it?" "He has had one of the artists draw a full page picture of Mont Plee in action, and then, right on the summit, he has rubbed a lot of explosive chemicals. When a match is touched to the stuff the eruption occurs. The child under five years whose photograph shows the smallest amount of hair and eyebrows after the explosion gets the first prize. Great idea, isn't it?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Don't Get Footsore! Get Foot-Ease. A wonderful powder that cures tired, hot, aching feet and makes new or tight shoes easy. Ask to-day for Allen's Foot-Ease. Accept no substitute. Trial package FREE. Address A. S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

An Estimate of Art. "Have you ever written anything that you were ashamed of?" inquired the severe relative. "No," answered the author. "But I hope to some day. I need the money."—Washington Star.

Henry A. Salzer, the well-known La Crosse, Wis., seedsman, has given the last thousand dollars to wipe out the debt on the La Crosse Y. M. C. A. Mr. Salzer, though an extremely busy man, finds time to encourage and assist educational and philanthropic enterprises frequently.

A Hard One. The eminent Boston professor who declares that there can be no more languages invented has probably not heard of the Georgetown man with a hare lip who is teaching a parrot to talk.—Washington Post.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund money if it fails to cure. 25c.

"So you're not working for Mr. Stockson-Bonds any more, Uncle Epi?" "No, sah, lee in de minin' business mahse' now." "In de mining business, eh?" "Yas, sah. Kalsominia."—Philadelphia Press.

When a woman says unpleasant things to a man she always ends by confessing that what she told him was for his own good.—Chicago Daily News.

Pis Permanently Cured. No fits after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Free \$2.00 trial bottle. Dr. R. H. Kline, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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Pico's Cure cannot be too highly spoken of as a cough cure.—J. W. O'Brien, 322 Third Ave., N. Y., Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 6, 1900.

THE MARKETS.

Cincinnati, June 16.	
CATTLE—Common	3 25 @ 5 00
Steers, choice	5 75 @ 6 50
CALVES—Extra	6 50 @ 7 25
HOGS—Ch. packers	7 10 @ 7 25
Mixed packers	6 80 @ 7 05
SHEEP—Extra	4 25 @ 4 85
LAMBS—Spring	6 85 @ 7 00
FLOUR—Spring pat.	3 90 @ 4 15
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	64 1/2 @ 65 1/2
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	64 1/2 @ 65 1/2
No. 2 white mixed.	@ 65 1/2
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	@ 47 1/2
RYE—No. 2	@ 57 1/2
HAY—Ch. timothy	@ 13 25
PORK—Clear cut	@ 19 50
LARD—Steam	@ 10 75
BUTTER—Ch. dairy	@ 16 1/2
Choice creamery	@ 23 1/2
APPLES—Fancy	4 00 @ 4 50
POTATOES—New, bl	2 75 @ 3 00
TOBACCO—New	2 95 @ 10 75
Old	7 90 @ 15 75

Chicago.	
FLOUR—Win. patent	3 70 @ 3 90
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	79 1/2 @ 79 1/2
No. 3 red	69 @ 72 1/2
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	63 @ 63 1/2
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	42 @ 43 1/2
RYE—No. 2	@ 60
PORK—Mess	17 55 @ 17 70
LARD—Steam	@ 10 20

New York.	
FLOUR—Win. patent	4 00 @ 4 10
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	78 1/2 @ 79 1/2
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	@ 69 1/2
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	@ 47
RYE—Western	@ 65
PORK—Mess	19 50 @ 19 75
LARD—Steam	@ 10 60

Baltimore.	
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	@ 80 1/2
Southern	70 @ 81
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	66 1/2 @ 66 1/2
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	48 @ 48 1/2
CATTLE—Butchers	5 75 @ 6 50
HOGS—Western	@ 7 50

Louisville.	
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	@ 80
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	@ 65 1/2
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	@ 45 1/2
PORK—Mess	@ 17 50
LARD—Steam	@ 10 37 1/2

Indianapolis.	
WHEAT—No. 2 red.	@ 76 1/2
CORN—No. 2 mixed.	@ 63 1/2
OATS—No. 2 mixed.	42 1/2 @ 43

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